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**MEETING OF THE
CPMR TASK FORCE ON MIGRATION MANAGEMENT
- FLORENCE, 4 NOVEMBER 2015 -**

- MINUTES -

Participants:

Regional representatives

ABRUZZO	Nadan PETROVIC, IPA-JTS Coordinator Assunta JANNI, Office Manager
CATALONIA	Francesca GUARDIOLA, Directora General de Relaciones Externas
GÄVLEBORG	Carl Ewert OHLSSON, Regional Councillor Carina AKERBORG, Strategist regional development
GOTLAND	Meit FOHLIN, Vice Mayor Bertil KLINTBOM, Director international strategies
HALLAND	Dag HULTEFORS, Regional Executive Board Lindha FELDIN, Senior Development Manager EU affairs
HELSINKI	Janne TAMMINEN, Helsinki EU Office
KYMENLAAKSO	Toni VANHALA, Head of International Affairs
NORRBOTTEN	Anders ÖBERG, County Councillor John KOSET, Adviser
NORTH AEGEAN	Christiane KALOGIROU, Governor Nikos LAMPROPOULOS, Brussels Representative
ÖREBRO	Fabian ILGNER, Senior Advisor
PELOPONNESE	Apostolos PAPAFOTIOU, Regional Executive Consultant of International Relations & European Programmes
PROVENCE-ALPES- CÔTE D'AZUR	Philippe CICHOWLAZ, Deputy General Director Emmeline ALLIOUX, Director, Brussels Delegation
RABAT-SALE-KENITRA	Mohamed SADIKI, Regional Councillor, Mayor of Rabat
SHETLAND	Jonathan WILLS, Councillor
SKÅNE	Annika ANNERBY JANSSON, Vice-President Maria LINDBOM, Senior Advisor International Relations
STOCKHOLM	Lena SÖDERMAN, International Coordinator
TUSCANY	Sara ALBIANI, Centro Salute Globale Cinzia CHIGHINE Michele DELUCA Nicole MASCIA Dario ORZALI, Dirigente Antonella POLLAZZI, RECIS - Regioni Centro Italia Servizi Alessandro SALVI

VALENCIA	Regina LAGUNA I MICÓ, Director General of EU and State Relations Ana Enguidanos, Head of Dept of Relation with Autonomous Communities, State and External Relations
VENETO	Monika BERNHARDT, Policy Adviser
WESTERN GREECE	Dimitris KARAMPOULAS, Expert collaborator of Head of Region
ZUID-HOLLAND	Tirza MOLEGRAAF, Senior Policy Adviser

European Commission

DG REGIO	Eleni PALEOLOGOU, Deputy Head of Unit
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CPMR

Alexis CHATZIMPIROS, Responsible for the Task Force at CPMR General Secretariat Davide STRANGIS, Executive Secretary, CPMR Inter-Mediterranean Commission Stavros KALOGNOMOS, Policy Officer Claire STREET, Policy Assistant

Note: Sicily is the Leading Region of the Task force, Skåne is the political rapporteur at CPMR Political Bureau Level.

All useful information for the Task Force is available in the Dropbox “CPMR-Migration” ([LINK](#))

1 - Welcome & Objectives of the Meeting

Alexis Chatzimpiros, responsible for the Migration Task Force at the CPMR Secretariat, welcomed participants to the meeting. The Task Force had met on 14 October ([Link to Minutes](#)) and had agreed to meet at the General Assembly to address two points:

- Ideas for future cooperation between regions
- Defining the future of the Task Force. On this point the Task Force was set up with the specific task of facilitating exchange and producing a policy paper for the Florence General Assembly: Since this task had been completed, the question was whether the group should continue.

Link to Memo: [List of activities on Migration since the CPMR General Assembly 2014](#)

2 - Ideas for further cooperation

Three Regions took the floor: Catalonia, Valencia and Tuscany to present their action on migration.

CATALONIA

Francesca Guardiola, Director General of External Relations, presented Catalonia’s action on the behalf of the Immigration Department, who unfortunately could not be present.

Catalonia was working with other political institutions and NGOs to prepare for the arrival of refugees. Three buildings had been arranged but for the moment no information had been received either from State or EU level. It was important for the regions and municipalities not to be left behind. They need to be involved from the beginning not just as implementers, but with a proactive role in the European response thanks to their knowledge of the territories.

The project idea MIPEX-R already put forward by Catalonia at previous meetings of the Task Force was outlined once more for information. The project aims to collect indicators concerning the integration of migrants at regional level. At present MIPEX (Migrant Integration Policy Index) has proved a useful EU tool at member state level.

Catalonia is working with CIDOB (www.cidob.org), a think tank for international relations in charge of the technical part of the project. The objective is to compare and measure indicators (social inclusion, health, education, etc.) and take them into account to improve existing measures or create new ones in a coordinated way.

Catalonia wishes to launch a first phase of a pilot project with a benchmarking exercise between 6-8 regions to see if the application is feasible at regional level before making a full proposal. The budget is already established. While some financial contribution is required from participating regions, Catalonia was convinced that benefits could compensate this initial expenditure. Regions could involve experts with whom they work on the issue of migration. If the pilot project proves successful, the project would be presented to DG HOME and other interested institutions in order to sell the idea and obtain more long-term funding.

A meeting will be organised in Brussels probably in January with Regions interested in the project. This could be the opportunity to look already at possible funding sources and identify relevant EU programmes.

Regions Skåne and PACA among others have already expressed an interest.

Link to Documents: [Powerpoint Presentation](#) - [Background Note](#)
For more information on MIPEX, see also the [Migration Policy Group](#)

VALENCIA

Regina Laguna, Director General of the EU Relations Department, informed that the new Valencian government was sensitive to migration and social inclusion issues and had mobilised a budget of approx. 650 000 euros to welcome an initial 1100 refugees from North and South Aegean in Greece. A boat and crew to bring the migrants as well as food provisions were already paid. The project had been presented 3 weeks previously to the Spanish national government and a convention was already prepared for the Foreign Affairs Ministry. Despite everything being ready, the region was still awaiting approval.

Secondly, she highlighted the will to avoid xenophobic reactions and ghettos through a relocation programme in small towns and rural areas where there was a population deficit. This would allow migrants to integrate more easily and also bring benefits to rural areas by increasing population allowing to maintain essential services such as schools.

TUSCANY

Sara Albiani presented an initiative on the theme of health and migrants led by Tuscany Region. With the objective of establishing a networking approach, the Region set up a multidisciplinary centre in 2012. This includes a Global Health Centre which analyses and works on the connection between globalisation and health, equity in human rights and sustainability. The centre has 4 thematic priorities: international health cooperation, analysis of health policies, neglected diseases, and finally migrants' health linked to ethical social issues such as legal status and right to health care.

The main role at regional level is to be a bridge between NGOs at local level dealing with emergency response to migration and resident immigrant needs with local authorities and local

health units in the Region. The pressure has been high in recent months and it is important at regional level to ensure equity and guarantee rights for migrants, including health care.

Actions led:

- Collection of good practices in the provision of non-discriminatory health services. This information will be collated for implementation at regional level. As well as good practices it is also working on cases of misapplication.
- Providing tailored information tools to migrants when they arrive so they are aware of their rights.
- Training of head staff in providing services to immigrants and refugees and for health care services needing to be adapted to specific diseases and cultural and linguistic conditions.
- Online platform and website for the collection of data on numbers and situation of migrants and dissemination materials and good practices.
- Link between development and migration with a project in Tunisia to enhance the health system of a region and using expertise from Tunisian migrant communities in Tuscany.

[Link to presentation.](http://www.centrosaluteglobale.eu/site/) Website: <http://www.centrosaluteglobale.eu/site/>

3 – Presentation by DG REGIO

Ms **Eleni Paleologou**, Deputy Head of Unit from the European Commission DG REGIO, took the floor to present a picture of what the Directorate-General was doing.

DG HOME is coordinating the crisis, but in respect of funding DG REGIO has developed a line regarding eligibility for long-term integration of migrants. Education, social housing, schools, health, etc. are covered by structural funds. Because of the emergency situation the Commission is trying to be flexible with the rules, and emergency measures (e.g. sanitation and amenities) not eligible for the moment could become eligible in certain hotspots.

She encouraged Regions to contact the relevant units or country desks at DG REGIO if they had questions concerning the Operational Programmes and ERDF. Her unit deals with horizontal issues on social inclusion on the ERDF side in close collaboration with DG HOME and in complementarity with the AMIF (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund).

Only 2 countries had so far been asking questions on eligibility. These were Greece and Slovenia. Italy for example had already included vessels for emergency measures.

An Urban Innovative Actions programme with an overall budget of €371 million would be launched by the end of the year and will include the topic of migrants. The call is addressed to cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants, but there were possibilities for collaboration in smaller towns.

In addition there is the Urban Agenda which is being prepared in collaboration with all DGs for 2016. The idea is to have partnerships with an open method of coordination between cities and DGs to put together funding on specific issues. One of the chosen topics is the inclusion of migrants and refugees. Ministers dealing with funds and urban matters are due to meet in an informal council at the end of November to discuss further.

DG REGIO will listen to requirements and give tailor-made advice within the scope of the existing regulations.

4 - Debate

Annika Annerby Jansson, Vice-President of Region Skåne and Vice-President of the CPMR took the floor as the representative of the Task Force in the Political Bureau.

The Task Force had formally completed its mission, but she believed that the regions should continue working on this issue.

The situation will not end today, but is rather the start of developments on this topic for EU regions. The European Commission would be looking at different ways to include migration issues in funding. A CPMR working group on Migration with common interests could be good basis for collaboration on funding for cross border, transnational interregional cooperation.

In Sweden, it is estimated that in 2015 there will be 140-190 000 asylum seekers wanting to stay in the country and the same number if not more is forecast for next year. From a long-term perspective, this migration is positive. However, we need to be able to properly address the question of integration otherwise the effect will not be as positive as we wish. Sharing of best practices and benchmarking would be very fruitful in this regard. Mrs Annerby Jansson reiterated her interest in the MIPEX-R project put forward by Catalonia and also mentioned that her Region was also discussing possible cooperation with Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region.

Mr **Jonathan Wills**, Shetland Islands Councillor, presented the situation in Scotland, where the Scottish Government had held a meeting with all the local authorities. All of these authorities had drawn up plans to offer assistance to refugees. However, the allowances provided by the national state for asylum-seekers would not allow them to live in remote islands like Shetland where the cost of living is much higher than on the mainland.

He expressed his admiration for what the Valencian government were doing and hoped that the Spanish government would help the process. In contrast he was ashamed of the UK administration, which had only offered to take in 20 000 refugees.

4 - Future of the Task Force

It was agreed that the CPMR should continue work on migration through a dedicated group. The group should be opened up to other interested CPMR Regions.